

# Indiana House of Representatives

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## News and Information

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **HOUSE PASSES BOTTORFF'S BILL ON EMINENT DOMAIN FOR COMMERCIAL USE**

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Jim Bottorff (D-Jeffersonville) co-authored legislation on eminent domain for commercial uses that was passed in the Indiana House this week. House Bill 1063 will now be sent to the state Senate for debate.

House Bill 1063 would prohibit the state from using eminent domain to acquire property for commercial use unless the property owner rejected an offer from the state that is equal to at least 150 percent of the property's assessed value or the average of three appraisals of the property, whichever is higher.

The author of the bill attempted to exempt those proper uses of eminent domain from punishment so acquiring property for highways, utilities, railroads, airports, or pipelines will continue to be legal.

"In the past there have been both good and bad uses of the eminent domain provision available to the state," said Bottorff. "This legislation would protect those instances when it is being used properly. More importantly, it would protect those citizens who pay outrageous attorney fees while attempting to protect their property that is being bought by the state for private, commercial development."

Bottorff assured the Legislature that the bill would not result in additional costs to the government and that it will not stop economic development in Indiana's communities.